GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:225
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2002
PRIVATISATION OF HEALTH SYSTEM
RAM JEEVAN SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise the Government run health care system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the privatisation of the Government run health care system is likely to affect the poor sections of society particularly those living in the rural areas; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 225 FOR 4.12.2002

No, Sir. Health is a State subject. Therefore, States are free to decide on privatisation of their health care system. The National Health Policy, 2002, welcomes the participation of the private sector in all areas of health activities with suitable regulatory mechanism. This policy has taken into consideration various relevant factors including, inter-alia health care financing, equity, public health infrastructure, etc. which would have an impact on making available and improving the quality of health care services in the country. The Central Government will continue to play an important role in designing national health programmes with the active participation of the State Governments.